

Roberts Report

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !

WELCOME to the very first issue of the Roberts Report! We have designed this newsletter to keep you, our family and friends, updated as we pursue full time ministry in Zambia. We felt that this first report needed to serve a dual purpose as some of you may not know much about us. So we decided to share a bit about our family in addition to our vision for the ministry to which God has called us.

It is hard to believe that 2007 is already off and running! 2006 proved to be a wonderful year in the life of our family. We trust that it was the same for you and yours. The year was one of joy, fun, loss and struggle, but I think the word we could use to best describe 2006 is growth! God has been stretching us, teaching us and growing us in many different ways! We are more thankful than ever for the incredible friends and family that God has blessed us with and we look forward to walking this journey into missions together!



W H O A R E W E ?

Brent and Kerri Roberts celebrated their 8th wedding anniversary on January 9, 2007 and are expecting baby #3 (a girl) on or around April 14th! They are active members of Columbia Crossroads Church in Columbia, SC.



Brent works at Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC as a Business Analyst. He has his undergraduate and Master of business degrees from USC. Brent has served as co-leader of the Widows and Orphans Ministry at Crossroads which has given him the opportunity to work with youth in crisis in the Columbia area.



Kerri is a stay-at-home (and now homeschooling) Mom. She holds undergraduate and master's degrees in vocal performance and enjoys singing professionally as much as possible. For the last 2 years she has served as co-leader of the Worship Ministry at Crossroads.

Caleb is 5 years old and in kindergarten this year. He is about 200% boy! He loves playing outside, playing with friends, playing computer games and *all* things associated with sports. Caleb will be 6 years old on March 21 and has planned an elaborate football birthday party!



Gracyn is 3 years old and is probably the spunkiest member of the Roberts family! She goes to preschool 2 days a week and loves being with her friends. Her favorite activities include playing dress-up, playing with her "dolly house" and her babies, and drawing. Gracyn will be 4 years old on May 26 and is looking forward to being a big sister!

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

So, you may be asking yourself, "How does a young family like this come to the decision to go into missions—and why Africa?" Well, it's a long story, but here's a very brief synopsis. We were steadily pursuing a happy life and quite comfortable with where we saw it heading, when, in the summer of 2004, God began a new work in us. As we prayed and sought His will, along with our family and trusted friends, we began to feel that God was showing us a different direction for our family. At the same time, we began to learn about Zambia through some friends who had traveled there. Brent had developed a love for Africa and its people after a mission trip to Kenya in 1995, so his interest was peaked as we began to hear and learn about Zambia. We both began to be restless in this life we had created. We continued to seek God...could He possibly be calling us to go?

In June of 2005, after speaking with the field leader of ACTION Zambia, we took an exploratory trip to Lusaka (the capital city of Zambia, where ACTION is

based). We wanted to experience what it was like in Africa and to hear and see the heart of the ACTION Zambia team. We both felt right at home in Lusaka and really connected with the ACTION team and their vision for ministry! Since then God has continued to confirm His calling as we have taken small steps in that direction. This is not the life we envisioned for ourselves, but God has shown us time and time again that He is in control. In all this, our goal is to listen, to hear God's voice and to be obedient to His calling.

In September, we were invited to attend Action International Ministries' Orientation for new missionaries, in Seattle, WA. We attended this orientation with 13 other missionary candidates. It was a time of great learning and growth. God once again confirmed His call to us as the ACTION board accepted us and invited us to come under their ministry. The elders of Columbia Crossroads Church have also approved us and, as our sending church, Crossroads is training and preparing us to serve in ministry.



September 2006 ACTION Missionary Candidates

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Prayer & Financial Partners

In order to pursue ministry in Zambia we need at least 70 individuals committed to praying for us regularly. In addition, we must raise 100% of the financial support we need to go. Our financial needs are:

**\$5,705.....monthly support
(living and work expenses)**

**\$22,630.....outgoing expenses
(travel, vehicle, set-up, etc.)**

Prayer Requests

We know that serving God in any capacity is just as much about what God wants to do **in** us as it is about what He wants to do **through** us. Therefore, our primary prayer request is for intimacy with God and sensitivity to His leading! Please also pray for:

- intimacy, strength and unity in our marriage
- the welfare of our children through this process (spiritually, physically & emotionally)
- the safe delivery and health of our new daughter (due April 14).
- prayer and financial partners
- every aspect to be done according to God's will and His timing. That we would truly be able to say to God:

"Yes, Lord, walking in the way of Your laws, we wait for You; Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts."

Isaiah 26:8

If you would like a copy of our brochure, detailed budget, or any other information, please contact us:
kerrisings@aol.com
803-731-0451

THE MINISTRY OF ACTION

Knowing God, taking action (Daniel 11:32b)

ACTION Zambia is a ministry of Action International Ministries. ACTION Zambia's purpose is to glorify God and reflect His love by proclaiming the "unfathomable riches of Christ" in word and deed, reaching out to the poor—especially orphans and vulnerable children—in and through local churches, encouraging and training leaders in local churches, helping the church to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis, and challenging and mobilizing the global church to further God's kingdom through involvement in world missions. Visit www.actionzambia.org to learn more.



OUR INVOLVEMENT

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is causing devastation in countries all over the world and Zambia is one of the hardest hit in sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that 1 in 5 Zambians is HIV positive, while some studies suggest this figure may be too low. HIV/AIDS has touched the lives of nearly every Zambian including nearly 1 million children who have lost one or both parents to the disease. Nearly 650,000 children have been left orphaned by AIDS—a figure which is expected to reach 1 million by the end of the decade. In order to survive, many of these children have taken to the streets in the capital city of Lusaka. These precious children need to know the eternal hope of Jesus Christ. God's Word calls us to care for them (James 1:27), and He has made this a passion of our hearts. The Church there is struggling and faces many obstacles. God has given us the desire to partner with the Church in Zambia to reach out to these children and also to assist in discipleship and other church ministries. Ultimately, we long to see the Church grow to maturity so that it can fulfill its purpose to meet the spiritual needs of the people of Zambia in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Have you visited our new web site?
www.robertsinzambia.blogspot.com**